IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   A speech recognition apparatus in which a score reflecting an acoustic likelihood of the results of speech recognition of an input speech is calculated and in which the speech is recognized based on the score, comprising:

extraction means for extracting characteristic values of said input speech, the input speech comprising a plurality of input words;

selection means for selecting one or more candidate first words from the plurality of input words to be processed by speech recognition processing, based on a first measure calculated using said characteristic values, and for selecting one or more candidate second words from the plurality of input words based on a second measure different from said first measure;

score calculation means for calculating said score of a concatenation of said candidate first and candidate second words selected by said selection means referencing concatenation information of said first and second words; and

finalizing means for finalizing a word string, as the recognition result of said speech, based on said score,

wherein the word concatenation information is sequentially updated based on the score.

2. (Currently Amended)   The speech recognition apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said selection means selects, as said candidate second words, the input words

00442923

having a number of phonemes satisfying a pre-set condition, with the number of phonemes as said second measure.

3. (Currently Amended)   The speech recognition apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said selection means selects, as said candidate second words, the input words having a part of speech satisfying a pre-set condition, with the part of speech as said second measure.

4. (Currently Amended)   The speech recognition apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said selection means selects, as said candidate second words, the input words having a linguistic likelihood satisfying a pre-set condition, with the linguistic likelihood as said second measure.

5. (Currently Amended)   The speech recognition apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

storage means for memorizing the results of speech recognition;

wherein said selection means selects, as said candidate second words, the input words included in the results of speech recognition memorized in said storage means, with a stored state in said storage means as said second measure.

6. (Original)   The speech recognition apparatus according to claim 5 further comprising:

inputting means for providing an input for correcting the results of speech recognition;

wherein said storage means stores the results of the speech recognition corrected by the input from said inputting means.

7.   (Currently Amended)   The speech recognition apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said selection means calculates said score using characteristic values of the speech to select said candidate first word based on said score.

8.   (Currently Amended)   A speech recognition method in which a score reflecting an acoustic likelihood of the results of speech recognition of an input speech is calculated and in which the speech is recognized based on the score, comprising:

an extraction step of extracting characteristic values of said input speech, said input speech comprising a plurality of input words;

a selection step of selecting one or more candidate first words from the plurality of input words to be processed by speech recognition processing, based on a first measure calculated using said characteristic values, and for selecting one or more candidate second words from the input plurality of words based on a second measure different from said first measure;

a score calculation step of calculating said score of a concatenation of said candidate first and candidate second words selected by said selection step referencing concatenation information of said first and second words; and

a finalizing step of finalizing a word string, as the recognition result of said speech, based on said score,

wherein the word concatenation information is sequentially updated based on the score.

00442923

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~recording~~ computer-readable medium having recorded thereon a program for causing a computer to perform speech recognition processing in which a score reflecting an acoustic likelihood of the results of speech recognition of an input speech is calculated and in which the speech is recognized based on the score, comprising:

an extraction step of extracting characteristic values of said input speech, said input speech comprising a plurality of input words;

a selection step of selecting one or more candidate first words from the plurality of input words to be processed by speech recognition processing, based on a first measure calculated using said characteristic values, and for selecting one or more candidate second words from the plurality of input words based on a second measure different from said first measure;

a score calculation step of calculating said score of ~~a concatenation of~~ said candidate first and candidate second words selected by said selection step referencing concatenation information of said first and second words; and

a finalizing step of finalizing a word string, as the recognition result of said speech, based on said score,

wherein the word concatenation information is sequentially updated based on the score.